

The Sirenia, according to Brandt, are not Cetacea, but rather purely aquatic Pachyderms, which, however, in accordance with our principles of classification, may very well form a distinct order.—*Comptes Rendus*, Sept. 7, 1863, p. 489.

*Note on the Lemming (Lemmus norvegicus, Desm.).*

By M. GUYON.

The emigrations of the Lemmings, like those of the migratory Locusts, are not periodical, and are attended, like them, by a greater or less amount of damage in their course. The Norwegian Lemming inhabits the highest parts of the mountains, where it lives chiefly upon mosses and lichens. Like all its congeners, it sleeps through the day, and only wakens at the approach of night. Its activity is then extraordinary: it moves, as it were, in every direction at once—tearing, gnawing, and murmuring.

For some years the Norwegian Lemmings had not migrated; but they migrated again in the spring of the present year, although in smaller numbers than usual. Towards Lillehamar, in the early part of July many were still to be seen running about in the gardens, and along the houses, and crossing the streets, which were completely strewn with their dead bodies. Notwithstanding its tenderness, the Lemming is strong and courageous. When pursued, it flies at first, but soon turns and defends itself with teeth and claws: it bites severely. Whilst on its defence, it utters very sharp cries. The Lemmings often fight together; and it seems probable that, under certain circumstances, they devour each other.

The cause of the emigration of the Lemmings has been supposed by some naturalists to be the presentiment of a severe winter, by others the deficiency of nourishment at the points where they live, and by others, again, their too great multiplication in certain years. Let us examine these three supposed causes of the emigration of the Lemmings.

1. *A severe winter, of which the animals have a presentiment.*—If this were the case, the emigration would always take place at a period more or less approaching winter. But the emigration took place this year in the spring.

2. *The deficiency or scarcity of nourishment at the points inhabited by them.*—The Lemming, as already stated, lives upon lichens and mosses; and these plants have not been less abundant on the mountains this year than in preceding ones.

3. *The great multiplication of the animals in certain years.*—This cause appears the most plausible, and we may adopt it until a more probable cause is discovered.

It has been said that the Lemming, in its emigrations, follows invariably a direct line, and is stopped by no obstacle, however large; but no doubt a little of the marvellous has been intermixed with the history of this interesting little mammal. In all probability, the direction which it follows in its emigrations is given to it by the declivity of the soil, so that it will always descend like water from its mountains.

In all probability, also, at a given moment in the years of emigration, and as if responding to a general call, the Lemmings will descend from their respective mountains, unite their bands at the base, and continue their march across the country. This march is made in columns more or less close, according to the number of emigrants, which diminishes from day to day by death. In inhabited districts, numbers perish by the agency of man and the domestic animals (the dog, cat, and pig); and the wild animals which follow their columns wage a continual war upon them: these are the birds of prey, and, among mammals, the *Isatis* and the fox. It is also asserted that the reindeer, notwithstanding its herbivorous nature, does not spare them. Hence the Lemmings quit their mountains never to see them again; but it is not known whether the emigrants consist of old or young individuals.

The author procured five specimens, with the view of bringing them to France; but three of them died before he quitted Norway. They fed freely upon biscuit, and also ate walnuts, nuts, almonds, and raisins, which were varied on the voyage with some fruits from their mountains.—*Comptes Rendus*, Sept. 7, 1863, p. 486.

*Description of a new Species of Galago.*

By A. D. BARTLETT.

In the month of November last I had occasion to call at the house of Mr. L. A. Monteiro, and that gentleman showed me a specimen of a *Galago*. I at once told him that the animal was new and unknown to me. It differs from the known species in being larger and lighter in colour and in having a much longer tail. Mr. Monteiro informs me that it was sent to England by his son, Mr. J. J. Monteiro, who obtained it at Cuio Bay, to the south of Loando, in Angola. It is very gentle, and sleeps much during the day, feeds on *fruit, bread, milk*, and other sweet things, particularly bananas.

The entire length of the animal is 28 inches, of which the tail measures 16 inches.

The colour is light chinchilla grey all over the head, body, and tail, nearly white on the throat; the toes and feet dark brown, nearly black; nose black; the eyes greyish brown; the ears nearly black, 2 inches long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch broad at the base. The animal has the power of turning its ears back and folding them up when at rest: when moving about or in search of food, they spread out and stand upward and forward, reminding one of the Aye-Aye; but when folded back and down, the animal's face bears a strong resemblance to the Douroucouli. The pupils of the eyes are oval and vertical.

This animal is considerably larger than the specimen in the British Museum, known as *Otolienus crassicaudatus*; but as I am unable to determine the exact structure of its teeth, in order to say positively that it belongs to that genus, I propose to name it *Galago Monteiri*, in order to identify it with the gentleman who has added from time to time many rare specimens to our collection.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* June 9, 1863.